



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2005

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SOUTH PHOENIX DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED

PHOENIX –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on April 22, 2005, JOHN FITZGERALD HARRIS, age 32, of Phoenix, AZ, was sentenced to 12 years and 7 months, and SONYA MICHELLE BROWN, age 34, of Phoenix, AZ, was sentenced to 12 years in the Bureau of Prisons by United States District Judge Stephen M. McNamee, in Phoenix.

This case involved a conspiracy of family members and friends who distributed cocaine and crack cocaine in south Phoenix and also shipped it to other states as well. From February of 2001, and continuing through May 8, 2003, both John Harris and Sonya Brown possessed with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine, and also possessed with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base. John Harris and Sonya Brown sold cocaine and crack cocaine to distributors, who in turn sold it on the street.

John Harris and Sonya Brown also had cocaine delivered to Ohio. On November 29, 2002, a pickup truck was stopped by Texas DPS that had two kilograms of cocaine in the truck that was being shipped for delivery to Ohio. On February 3, 2003, Oklahoma Highway Patrol stopped a pickup truck near Vinita, Oklahoma. The police discovered two kilograms of cocaine secreted in the engine manifold. These two trucks were hauling this cocaine for Harris and Brown.

On March 24, 2003, a search warrant was executed at the residence of Sonya Brown. Police found 492.2 grams of cocaine, 180.4 grams of cocaine base, marijuana, \$2600 in United States currency, an SKS assault rifle, a Norinco Mac 90 assault rifle, two thirty round magazines for the assault rifles, a 9mm. handgun, two bullet proof vests and a cache of ammunition.

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Sonya Brown illegally possessed the above firearms after being previously convicted of a felony.

On May 8, 2003, a search warrant was served at Sonya Brown's apartment in Tempe. Defendant Sonya Brown was arrested there and possessed 13.1 grams of cocaine base with the intent to distribute it. On May 8, 2003, a search warrant was served at John Harris' apartment in Phoenix. Defendant John Harris was arrested there and possessed with the intent to distribute 250.3 grams of cocaine and 34.4 grams of cocaine base.

On May 11, 2002, John Harris illegally possessed a Glock 20 10mm. handgun and a Norinco Mac 90, 7.62 x 39 assault rifle. On December 5, 2002, John Harris illegally possessed a Glock 21 .45 handgun, and two Sturm-Ruger P95 9mm. handguns. John Harris was in possession of the above firearms after being previously convicted of a felony.

John Harris and Sonya Brown pled guilty on January 7, 2005, to Count 1 - Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute 5 kilograms or more of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(ii), and Count 2 - Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute 50 grams or more of Cocaine Base, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(iii). Additionally, John Harris pled guilty to Counts 11 and 12 - Felon in Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). Sonya Brown also pled guilty to Count 14 - Felon in Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Phoenix Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by Keith E. Vercauteren and Timothy T. Duax, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0421-PHX-SMM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-078

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